IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A linear drive unit comprising:

a yoke body having an exciter winding providing a magnetic field;

a magnetic armature part which is set in linear oscillating motion about a center position in an axial direction by the magnetic field of the winding the center position being the position the armature part adopts when oscillating between its maximum lateral deflection positions; and

a spring having a fixed end clamped in a fixed manner with respect to the yoke body and an oscillating end coupled to the armature part at a point of application and acting on the armature part in the direction of motion; ~~and~~

wherein in the center position of the armature part, the point of application of the spring on the armature part being displaced axially by a predetermined distance in relation to its clamping position, and

wherein the spring is configured as a leaf spring tensioned transverse to the direction of movement of the armature part.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The drive unit according to claim 7, further comprising a plurality of springs disposed on both sides of the center position.

10. (Previously Presented) The drive unit according to claim 7, wherein the armature part is connected to a plunger of a compressor, the axial displacement of the point of

application of the spring on the armature part being provided in the direction away from the compressor.

11. (Currently Amended) The drive unit according to claim 7, wherein the spring has a ~~relatively low stiffness~~spring constant selected such that the characteristic frequency of the drive unit in cooperation with the total oscillating mass is lower than the frequency of the driving force.

12. (Canceled).